

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2309

July 18, 2011

Mr. Richard Anderson
CEO
Delta Air Lines, Inc.
1030 Delta Boulevard
Atlanta, GA 30320-6001

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I am writing to urge you to reconsider Delta's plans to cut service to five airports in rural Minnesota.

In 2008, when Delta purchased Minnesota-based Northwest Airlines, it also acquired a number of flights that service rural Minnesota. Almost three years later, as you seek to cut costs, your airline has announced that you would like to end or reduce service to five airports in my state: the Chisholm-Hibbing Municipal Airport, the Falls International Airport, the Thief River Falls Regional Airport, the Brainerd Lakes Regional Airport and the Bemidji Regional Airport. Delta is currently the only commercial airline that services these airports, and these communities depend on your service.

Commercial air service at these five airports has been a needed economic boon to the communities that they serve. To lose that service now would be a setback just as our economy begins to recover. Commercial service provides a unique connection to the interstate and international business communities, as well as increasing tourist access to some of the most beautiful land in the country. Delta's flights are a vital connection for these rural communities.

As you seek to streamline your business, I urge you to consider your impact in these communities and reconsider your plans. The benefits your flights provide have been tremendous, and I hope that they can continue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Franken', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Al Franken
United States Senator